THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The demand of LPG has grown at the following rate during the period, 2001-02 to 2003-04:—

Year	% growth
2001-02	10.1
2002-03	8.1
2003-04	11.4

The average growth in demand per annum, during the period 2001—04 comes to 9.87%.

(c) to (e) As per provisional figures for the period April, 2004 to February, 2005, LPG demand grew by about 9.9% as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Thus, the growth is somewhat below the average growth during the last 3 years. While the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are meeting the domestic LPG demand of genuine customers, they are also strictly monitoring the supplies with a view to curbing the diversion of this product for unauthorized uses. This has moderated the growth of demand for domestic LPG.

Utilisation of oil industry development Cess

†2274. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 51,000 crore recovered in the form of oil industry development cess in deposited with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the policy adopted for utilization of the cess amount by Government; and

(d) the amount allocated from this fund for oil industry development during the year 2003-04?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The Government of India have collected an amount of approximately Rs. 51,000 crore up to 31.3.2004 through the Oil Industry Development Cess.

(c) and (d) The Oil industry Development Board (OIDB) has so far received an amount of approximately Rs. 902 crore out of the cess collected by the Government of India. The amount so allocated to OIDB is utilized for the development of the oil industry.

During the year 2003-04, the OIDB has released an amount of approximately Rs. 520 crore towards loans and Rs. 77 crore towards grants to Oil Sector PSUs /other Organisations engaged in the development of the oil industry.

Proposals for supply of Natural Gas to Maharashtra

2275. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals of the State Government of Maharashtra for supply of additional Natural Gas for Maharashtra are pending with the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra have requested an increase in gas supplies to the Uran Gas Turbine Power Station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) from the present level of 2.6 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) to 3.5 MMSCMD.

In the Uran region the availability of Gas is limited to only about 10 MMSCMD as against an allocation of about 16.5 MMSCMD. Thus, owing to the overall deficit in gas availability in the region, it has not been feasible to increase the gas supply to MSEB.